11/2/71

Dear Howard (no copies),

Of all the many impressive things you have done, I think your letter of the 29th to Ned is the most. I gave it to Lil to read and independently she said the same thing and more. It shows a maturity beyond your years.

What is obvious that you omitted is also great wisdom, for he'd have taken these things the wrong way.

No matter what now happens, and I expect nothing I will like, I have to learn a lesson from this experience. It is a lesson I don't really have to learn. I learned it long ago. I really have to live by it.

As of today's mail, I have not heard from him. He was home Friday night. Jerry took him to the airport. It may well be that he is taking time to think it through. But I can not and could not take time. He required certain things of me and I have found time for at least a minimum. The situation, as he knew I understood it, also did, and that he elected to ignore, even when I reminded him of it.

If I make mistakes, they will be my own. I will not abdicate my own judgement. Perfection is not a state of man, but I'll stack my judgement, for all its failings, against any record on this subject.

Ned, by the way, is an ethics major. He has laid aside his thesis to do this. His wife is giving him flack over it. He is wealthy, but that does not mean he has spare cash. He told me he had spent all of that on an expensive new house and that to do this he will have to cash in some stocks or bonds. But what kind of ethics is it to go to Teddy's office posing as a friend and to insist as he does with me and my interpretation of the Kennedy situation?

I fear that no matter what now happens he will be hurt, because he is a man of decent intent. He has a bit too much ego, but who can complain about that? I do not now and never did question his motive as he conceives it.

But that is not what I have to live by and with, is it?

Many thanks.

Sincerely,